

# The Baptist Record

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Merry Christmas!

Published Since 1877

## Christmas traditions not always based on the facts

Christmas is Jesus' birthday. Any child in Sunday School knows that, which is unfortunate, because it almost certainly is wrong.

The modern celebration of Christmas combines a number of traditions so ancient that their origins have become lost to all but historians and trivia buffs. Following is all you ever wanted to know (or perhaps not) about the celebration of Christmas.

Followers of Jesus celebrated his death and resurrection early in church history, but Jesus' nativity was not celebrated until 300 years later. While Dec. 25 eventually came to be associated as Jesus' birthday, no evidence remains about the exact date of Christ's birth.

Luke's gospel tells of angels announcing Jesus' birth to shepherds in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

Winter in Judea was wet and chilly. It is unlikely that shepherds would spend the night in their fields in December. More likely, scholars say, Jesus was born in the spring lambing season, when nights were balmy and shepherds would need to be awake to tend their ewes.

Early in the fourth century, Christians in Rome began to celebrate the birth of Christ. At the time, the church was embroiled in a controversy over the nature of Christ — whether he was truly God or a created being. It is likely an emphasis on the doctrine of the incarnation, the idea that "the Word was made flesh," in John 1:14, was a factor in the spread of the celebration of Christmas.

The term Christmas, a contraction of "Christ's mass," did not come into use until the Middle Ages. Another term used to describe the event, Nativity, is from the Latin word for "birth."

Christmas appeared at first to have been observed at different times during the year. There is some evidence that the earliest Christmas festival was held in May.

In the fourth century, Pope Julius I designated Dec. 25 as Christmas, probably to

coincide with pagan celebrations of the winter solstice, which many ancient religions observed as signaling the return or rebirth of the sun. The Roman Feast of the Invincible Sun was celebrated across the Roman Empire. Rather than trying to eradicate pagan holidays, church leaders sought to replace them with Christian observances.

Another tradition says Jesus died on the same date as he was conceived, March 25, placing his birth nine months later on Dec. 25.

When the Julian calendar, established by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C., was replaced by the Gregorian calendar, ordered by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582, 11 days were dropped. Some Christian sects refused to accept the redating and continued to celebrate Christmas on the old Dec. 25, which is Jan. 7 on the new calendar. Protestants were also slow to accept the Gregorian calendar, which became official in 1752.

The Christian calendar purports to date history from the year of Jesus' birth, but it is based on a miscalculation. The census by Quirinius cited in Luke 2:2 was dated by the Jewish historian Josephus in 6-7 B.C.

Herod the Great, mentioned in Matthew's gospel as the jealous king that tried to murder the Christ Child, died in 4 B.C., according to Roman histories. Scholars pinpoint the year of Jesus' birth as

sometime between 4 B.C. and 1 B.C.

Christmas became a public holiday by order of the Roman emperor Justinian in the sixth century. St. Francis of Assisi introduced devotion to the Christmas crib, or manger, in the 13th century.

Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, expressed devotion to Christmas in sermons. English Puritans, however, tried to do away with the holiday in the 17th century.

It was revived with the restoration of the English monarchy in 1660, but as a more secular holiday than it had been before.

Some pre-Christian traditions became associated with Christmas and continue today. For example, in the first millennium in what is now Scotland, Druids celebrated the winter solstice by a festival honoring their sun god. Called "Yule," the celebration included dragging a huge log into an opening and starting a bonfire. The Druids would dance around the yule log in a noisy celebration designed to wake the sleeping sun.

The Druids also hung mistletoe in hopes it would bring peace and good fortune. Use of plants like holly comes from an ancient belief that such plants blossomed at Christmas.

The Christmas tree is a fairly recent addition, developing in the early 17th century in Strasbourg, France, and spreading through Germany and into northern Europe. The evergreen tree trimmed with lights and other

decorations was derived from the so-called paradise tree, symbolizing Eden, in German mystery plays.

The use of candles on Christmas trees developed from the belief that candles appeared miraculously on the trees at Christmas. The Christmas tree was introduced in England in 1841 by Prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria. From there it accompanied immigrants to the United States.

The figure of Santa Claus, which arguably overshadows Jesus in secular celebrations of Christmas, stems from a historical character from the fourth century, Saint Nicholas.

The patron saint of Russia, Saint Nicholas lived in Asia Minor, now Turkey. He also came to be viewed as the patron saint of children, scholars, virgins, sailors, and merchants. In the Middle Ages, thieves also viewed him as their patron saint as well.

The Saint Nicholas legend tells of surreptitious gifts to three daughters of a poor man, who, unable to give them dowries, was about to abandon them to a life of sin. From that story grew the custom of secret giving on the eve of St. Nicholas Day, Dec. 6. Because of the proximity of dates, Christmas and St. Nicholas Day became merged in many countries.

Colonial settlers on Manhattan Island introduced the name Santa Claus, a corruption of the Dutch "Sinterklaas," a modification of "Sint Nikolaas."

The Twelve Days of Christmas, popularized in the carol, refers to the 12 days between Christmas and Epiphany, Jan. 6. Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as the Son of God, represented in the adoration of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the miracle of turning water to wine at Cana.

Use of the abbreviation "Xmas," often criticized as an attempt to secularize or remove Christ from Christmas, actually has Christian roots. "X" is a Greek letter transliterated into English as "ch." It is the first letter in the biblical word "Christos," which is translated as "Christ."



### Pay the bill

The University of Virginia's refusal to fund the printing of a student-run Christian newspaper violated the free-speech rights of the publishers, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled. In a 5-4 decision, the court ruled that the school's policy barring the use of student activity funds for religious activities, while the funds at the same time supported a broad range of other student activities, amounted to discrimination. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote that the case rested at the intersection of two "bedrock" constitutional principles: government neutrality in religious matters and the prohibition against public funding for religious activities. She concluded that the university would not be endorsing the publication's religious perspective by paying for its printing. Justice David Souter disagreed, stating in his dissent that the court for the first time had approved "direct funding of core religious activities by an arm of the state." O'Connor was joined in the majority by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, along with Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas.

### Effective ads

Many churches choose to advertise on local radio stations, but such ads are not the time to "slam people with the Bible," said a West Virginia pastor who specializes in writing radio spots. Tom Cheyney, pastor of Calvary Church in Morgantown, advised aspiring ad writers to keep it simple and don't try to be cute. "Read the advertisement to a child and ask him what it was about. If he can't repeat the general idea, the idea is too complicated for radio," he said. Ads should stick with one theme and be straightforward as well as truthful, he added. "Tell a story but don't produce a drama. Repeat points that are not easily understood. Never confuse the listener with strange words. Never play games with listeners," Cheyney pointed out. Other suggestions from Cheyney include: Don't brag. Tailor the ad for non-church members. Don't yell. Never be flippant. Use humor sparingly. Lastly, don't be sloppy. "Too many times advertising is done at the last minute, and it looks like it was done in a hurry. Go for class, not mass," Cheyney said.

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

Final payment is received on the \$260,000 sale of Camp Kittiwake, the beachfront RA camp destroyed by Hurricane Camille in 1969. Proceeds from the sale will finance construction of a lodge at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko.

#### 20 years ago

People pack the sanctuary at First Church, Ridgeland, to hear R.G. Lee, pastor emeritus of Bellevue Church, Memphis, and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, preach his world-renowned "Payday Someday" sermon.

#### 50 years ago

The first Mississippi Indian Bible Institute is held at Bethany Choctaw Indian Church, eight miles west of Philadelphia. J.B. Rounds, secretary for Indian work at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, is the featured speaker.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## An overflow of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving could well be extended to Christmas and beyond. As 1995 winds down, we have much for which to be thankful.

Our God is faithful — bless the Lord, O my soul, "and forget not all his benefits." The salvation of our God is wondrous to behold.

We remember the Christ Child with a thankful spirit because of those who seek to make him known. The missionary spirit is still much alive in our churches.

Records have been established in the number of missionaries being sent abroad, the new countries opened, and a record Lottie Moon offering in 1994. We expect to top that in 1995.

We are grateful for the mission work in the homeland. The work of the Home Mission Board in outreach, soul-winning, and social consciousness has filtered

into many churches.

The Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) has been blessed with a real turn-around victory, going from an \$8.2 million dollar loss with a total revenue of \$225 million in 1994. This year the BSSB met the income goal and exceeded it by \$4.4 million.

Thankfulness should be paramount as we close out 1995 with record Cooperative Program (CP) gifts.

Mississippi churches have been faithful in using the CP pipeline to support home and foreign missions. In 11 months \$21,520,855 has been channeled to mission causes through the Cooperative Program. This amount is a 5.08% increase over the previous year. Add a Lottie Moon projected gift of \$7 million, and we abound with thanksgiving.

A vast number of Mississippi volunteers have gone from A to Z — Alaska to Zimbabwe — not to mention Bolivia, Venezuela, Honduras, Russia, etc.

Construction crews have built buildings in the U.S., plus several foreign nations.

We at **The Baptist Record** are especially thankful for our 105,000 subscribers and for the privilege of serving here.

"They thanked God and took courage," was the report of the apostle Paul. The entire staff joins you in seeking a courageous 1996.

Guy Henderson, editor  
William H. (Dusty) Perkins Jr., associate editor

Renee Walley  
Shannon Simpson  
Betty Anne Bailey  
Florence Larrimore  
Betty Smith

## Guest Opinion...

## The Magi's star of Bethlehem — conjunction of two, or new star?

By Huey Harwell

God, in his wisdom, did not give us the exact year or day Christ was born; but he may have arranged his birth on the very day we celebrate it. He may have been conceived on the first day of the Jewish new year, born on a warm December night during Hanukkah, and circumcised on the eighth day, the first day of the Gentile new year.

Like Moses, he may have come out of Egypt at the Passover, shortly after the death of Antipater (Herod's son) and Herod (Matt. 2:19-20).

Time magazine says, "When Christ was born in Bethlehem, almost 2,000 years ago, the heavens offered a display that few who studied the stars would have failed to notice. There was a conjunction of the same two planets three times in 7 B.C. The two planets were Jupiter, considered by the ancients to be the star of David, and Saturn" (Dec. 27, 1967 issue).

Venus is the most brilliant of all the stars. There has been a fairly recent discovery of a double conjunction of Venus and Jupiter in 3 and 2 B.C. The encounter was in the constellation of Leo, the Lion of Judah.

Ernest L. Martin, director of the Foundation for Biblical Research in Pasadena, Calif., and John Mosley, program supervisor for the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, also believe Herod died shortly after the eclipse of 1 B.C. and that the conjunctions of Jupiter and Venus in 3 and 2 B.C. might be what led the Magi to go to Jerusalem.

They write: "On Aug. 1, 3 B.C., Jupiter became visible above the pre-dawn eastern horizon as the 'morning star.' Twelve days later, at about 4 a.m., a very close conjunction occurred between Jupiter and Venus.... On June 17, 2 B.C., Jupiter and Venus drew together [in the west] in a dazzling conjunction that left them only 0.04 degrees apart!"

Martin and Mosley believe Christ may have been born in the autumn of 2 B.C., that the Magi arrived during Hanukkah on Dec. 25, and that they saw Jupiter in "its retrograde motion," stopping over Bethlehem ("The Star of Bethlehem Reconsidered: An Historical Approach," *Planetarian* magazine, Summer 1980 issue).

"Viewing the phenomenon from Jerusalem," they say, "Jupiter would indeed have been 'stopped' over Bethlehem some 68 degrees above the southern horizon at the time of the Magi's normal pre-dawn observations of the skies."

It's possible the Magi arrived on Dec. 25, several hours after Jesus was born, and they saw God's gift to the world that first Christmas morning. Herod may have begun searching that day, but waited over a month before ordering his death.

Or, the Magi may have heard about Christ's birth (Luke 2:17), and this, plus the conjunctions, is what inspired them to go to Jerusalem. At any rate, after they arrived, Herod asked them what time the star had appeared. It must have been at least a year since they had seen the star, for Herod ordered all the children killed who were "two years old and under" (Matt. 2:7, 16).

When the wise men left Herod, they saw the star they had seen "in the east," and it led them to Christ. God could have moved it out of its normal course to guide the wise men to Bethlehem. He caused the world to stop spinning in the days of Joshua, so he certainly could have created a new star, or moved one he had already created.

Jesus had a supernatural conception and a natural birth. The star of Matthew 2 may have had both elements.

Harwell is a member of First Church, Flomaton, Ala.



## THE FRAGMENTS

## The season and the reason

An editor of a secular newspaper bemoaned the fact that the "religious type" were always trying to stir up something about Christmas. A pastor urged his people to buy less and think more about the Christ. He was almost tarred and feathered.

One writer said there was an effort to erase "Merry Christmas" and make it "Happy Holidays."

I witnessed a recent Christmas parade in which there was not one religious float, group, or emphasis in the two-mile procession. The religiousness of Christmas has

been dismissed by those who desire the season without the Reason.

A Peanuts cartoon hit the nail: "Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown. Since it's this time of the season, I think we ought to bury past differences and try to be kind," said Lucy.

Charlie Brown asked, "Why does it just have to be this time of the season? Why can't it be all year long?"

Lucy looked at him and exclaimed, "What are you, some kind of fanatic?" — GH

## Venezuelan missionaries available

Mississippi Baptists will embark on a three-year partnership with the South American country of Venezuela, beginning in January 1996. Churches and church organizations may be interested in hosting Southern Baptist missionaries who work in Venezuela, in order to achieve a better understanding of the needs of Venezuelan Baptists. Currently, two missionary couples from Venezuela are on furlough in the United States and are available for speaking engagements:

Dickie and Dee Nelson  
(mission administrator)  
304 Evergreen Ave.  
Birmingham, AL 35209  
(205) 871-2414

Richard and Martha Beal  
(mission treasurer)  
425 Ford  
Columbia, MS 39429  
(601) 736-6389

For more information on the Mississippi/Venezuela Partnership and other partnership projects, contact Bill Hardy, partnership coordinator of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

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Editor.....Guy Henderson  
Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley  
Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey  
Layout/Advertising.....Shannon T. Simpson  
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THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Published Since 1877

## Five Mississippi couples join FMB overseas ranks

RICHMOND, Va. — The Foreign Mission Board (FMB) on Dec. 12 appointed 38 missionaries during a service at Broadmoor Church, Memphis.

Among those appointed were 10 with Mississippi connections: **Robert M. and Sally Bade**, **Bradley D. and Lenora Beaman**, **David B. and Deborah Balyeat**, **Timothy A. and Rebecca Lightsey**, and **Frank R. and Demetria (Dede) Trotter**.

As missionary associates the Bades will live in Germany, where he will promote religious education in the churches, working as the associate to the general secretary of the European Baptist Convention. A missionary associate is a person employed for a renewable four-year term to do a particular job for which he or she is equipped by education and experience.

Since 1990 he has been assistant pastor of Immanuel Church in El Paso, Texas.

Born and reared in Imlay City, Mich., Bade is the son of Virginia Bade of that city and the late Donald Bade. He considers Immanuel Church his home church. Main Church in Hattiesburg was also influential in his Christian growth.

He received the associate in applied science degree from DeVry Institute of Technology in Chicago; bachelor of arts degree from William Carey College; the master of arts in religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth; and the master of education degree from the University of Texas at El Paso. He also attended Brevard Community College in Cocoa, Fla.

He served in the U.S. Navy. He was an electronic technician with Altman Electronics in Chicago; an electronic engineer with Boeing

Aerospace Co. in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and McDonnell-Douglas Aerospace Co. at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida; a customer service representative with Sears Roebuck and Co. in Fort Worth; and assistant pastor of Calvary Church in Hannibal, Mo., and Northgate Church, El Paso. He also made mission trips to Brazil and Mexico.

Born and reared in Lapeer, Mich., Mrs. Bade, the former Sally Cole, is the daughter of the late William and Ada Cole. She considers Immanuel her home church.

She received the bachelor of business administration degree from Texas Wesleyan College in Fort Worth. She also attended William Carey College.

She was a material control clerk with Boeing Aerospace Co. in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; secretary to the dean of students at El Paso Community College; secretary to the registrar at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo.; assistant librarian at Immanuel Baptist Christian School in El Paso; and a senior secretary in the nurse-midwifery education program at the University of Texas at El Paso. She also made mission trips with her husband to Brazil and Mexico.

The Bades have one grown daughter.

The Balyeats will live in Argentina, where he will work in sports evangelism.

Currently he is coordinator of sports outreach for Dallas Baptist Association and was soccer coach/director of housing at Dallas Baptist University. They are members of University Church in Dallas.

Born in Wichita Falls, Texas, Balyeat is the son of Lloydene Balyeat of Fort Worth and the late

Kent W. Balyeat. His parents were missionaries in Argentina. He grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and considers Dallas his hometown.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Dallas Baptist University. He also attended Garden City (Kan.) Christian College (now Garden City Community College); Mississippi College; and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

He was a soccer coach at Mississippi College and a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Texas.

Born in Lawton, Okla., Mrs. Balyeat, the former Deborah Gray, is the daughter of Lillyam Barnes of Dallas and George A. Gray Jr. of Mesquite, Texas. While growing up she also lived in Dallas and Managua, Nicaragua. She considers Dallas her hometown and University Baptist her home church.

She received the bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from the University of Texas at Arlington. She also attended Dallas Baptist University. She was a graduate assistant at Mississippi State University in Starkville and a Spanish high school teacher at Magnolia Academy in Jackson. Recently she was a Spanish assistant professor at Dallas Baptist University.

The Balyeats have three children.

The Beamans will live in south Asia, where he will start and develop churches.

Since 1991 he has been pastor of First Church in Pharr, Texas. He also was a Home Mission Board Mission (HMB) Service Corps worker in Pharr.

Born in Indianapolis, Beaman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Beaman of Fishers, Ind. While (See FMB on page 8)



**Missionary physician Earl Hewitt** (right) addresses missionary parents Oct. 14 at the second meeting of the Mississippi Missionary Parents Fellowship, the only known group of its kind. The fellowship meets twice yearly to provide a forum for parents and grandparents of missionaries. (BR special photo by James R. Walker)

## Missionary parents form unique group to share concerns, pray

By James R. Walker

On Saturday, Oct. 14, a group of parents met at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. What is so unusual about this group is that it is the only known group of its kind.

The Mississippi Missionary Parents Fellowship (MMPF) was formed in April 1995, to give a time to missionary parents to share their joys and worries, pray, talk about their children, and share common concerns.

At this meeting were parents with children or grandchildren in most parts of the world, including Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

At the Oct. 14 meeting, physician and Southern Baptist medical missionary B. Earl Hewitt Jr. told of his work since 1988 in the African nation of Ghana. Before that, he was a medical volunteer in Nigeria and Ghana.

Hewitt and wife Mona are home on medical leave for the Sept. 9 birth of their first child, Emily Claire. They expect to return to Ghana in early 1996.

Bill Wakefield of the Southern

Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) also spoke to the group, encouraging the group to pray daily for the FMB. He said the FMB was aware of the needs of missionary parents and wants to help in any way they can.

New MMPF officers elected at the October meeting include Jimmy Walker of Pheba, chairperson; Darlene Tenney of Raymond, program chairperson; Glen Williams of McComb and Glenda Braswell of Boyle, secretary-treasurer; and Bill and Jeanette Sellers of Brandon, prayer chairpersons.

The fellowship meets twice yearly. Tentative dates for the 1996 meetings are April 27 and Sept. 28.

For more information on MMPF, contact Edna Ellison in the WMU Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530; or Jimmy Walker at (601) 494-1012.

**Walker is pastor of Pheba Church, Pheba.**



Timothy and Rebecca Lightsey



David and Deborah Balyeat



Frank and Dede Trotter



Bradley and Lenora Beaman



Robert and Sally Bade





## New Sanctuary

First Church, Olive Branch, moved into its new 1,400-seat sanctuary on Nov. 19. The \$1.5 million, 2.3 acre expansion includes the 22,000 square-foot building that houses the sanctuary, as well as 10 new Sunday School rooms, a library, an office complex, and a parking lot. Members of the Building 2000 Committee, planners of the two-year expansion project, accepted a

plaque of appreciation from pastor P.J. Scott and the congregation. Committee members included (back row, from left) H. Gene Phillips, Glynn Baker, Jim Davis, Bob R. May, Tommy Taylor, (front row, from left) Joe Smith, chairman, Paula Rikard, Donna Brock, and Charles Berry. Not pictured is committee member Teresa Pettit.



## Flexibility is key to newest witness training process

By Sarah Zimmerman

RIDGECREST (BP) — Flexibility is the key characteristic of the newest witness training process developed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) in Atlanta.

Titled People Sharing Jesus, the process teaches a number of witnessing approaches, said Jerry Pipes, HMB associate director of personal evangelism. It can be taught in a variety of settings, and the materials can be adapted for churches with smaller budgets.

"Seventy-three percent of Southern Baptist churches are not doing anything to equip people in personal evangelism," Pipes said. With People Sharing Jesus, we've tried to give them what they've asked for and something that will fit into their existing church structure.

"People Sharing Jesus equips congregations to share Christ where they live, work, and play," Pipes said. "Christians learn to sense where the other person is and share Christ at their point of need."

Based on a newly published book by Darrell Robinson, HMB vice president for evangelism, the process is relational and intentional. Participants are taught to develop relationships with non-Christians and to make a point of sharing Christ with them.

"This is a tool to help you witness according to your own giftedness and personality type and the need of the person with whom you're sharing," Robinson said.

The process can be taught in small-group discussions, retreat settings, worship services, a seminar series, or individual studies.

Participants learn to share Christ by using evangelistic tracts, an illustration that demonstrates how sin separates people from God, Scripture from John 3, and their personal testimony. They are also taught the importance of an intimate walk with Christ and that

sharing Christ is the natural result of that relationship.

People Sharing Jesus resources include six products:

— **People Sharing Jesus** book written by Robinson. It includes study questions with each of the 12 chapters.

— **Leaders' guide** which includes teaching outlines, listener guides for small group discussions, art for use with overhead projectors, and suggested order of service for use in worship settings.

— **A special New Testament** with 31 devotions written by Calvin Miller, author and professor at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. The devotions encourage Christians to fulfill the biblical command to be fishers of men.

The special New Testament includes Psalms, Proverbs, and outlines of Scripture references on 10 issues ranging from failure to self-image. They are also marked with Scripture references for four methods of sharing the gospel.

— **Abridged audio version.** The two 60-minute tapes are a condensed version of the book.

— **Audio seminar** of four 90-minute tapes. Twelve noted speakers including Zig Ziglar, Marge Caldwell, Bill Bright, Steve Camp, and Roy Fish share insights on each chapter of the book. The tapes could be used as resource for leaders preparing to teach the material or they could be played during a teaching session.

— **Media Kit** with the book, leader's guide, two posters, a bulletin insert, and press release. It also includes two video tapes which feature 12 10-minute sessions with humorous vignettes, interviews, and demonstrations of the book's principles.

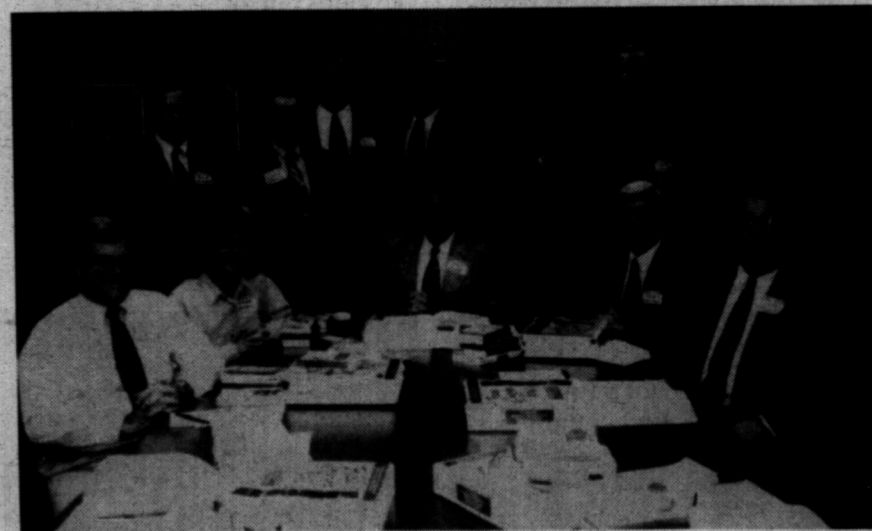
The materials range in price from \$5.99 for the New Testament to \$159.99 for the media kit.

Pipes said People Sharing Jesus could be taught if the leader only had the book and the leader's guide which together cost \$21.

People Sharing Jesus material can be ordered through HMB customer services 1-800-634-2462. It can also be purchased in Baptist bookstores and other Christian bookstores.

For more information on implementing People Sharing Jesus in Mississippi, contact James Fancher, consultant in the evangelism department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

**Zimmerman writes for HMB.**



**Jerry Pipes** (seated, center) associate director of personal evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, visited the Baptist Building in Jackson recently to explain the new People Sharing Jesus witness training procedure to Mississippi Baptists interested in implementing the program. Present at the meeting were (standing, from left) David Mitchell, pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson; Sonny Adkins, pastor of Forest Church, Forest; Bill Jaggar of First Church, Philadelphia; Jerry Mixon, pastor of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale; Ron Kirkland, pastor of First Church, Amory; Jerry Sullivan, pastor of First Church, Raleigh; (seated, from left) Garry and Diane Stafford of First Church, Mount Olive; Pipes; James Fancher, consultant in the evangelism department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and Ken Sharp, pastor of Lizana Church, Gulfport. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Pontotoc Countians give over \$100,000

Dec. 20, 1994, is a date that Pontotoc Countians will long remember. It was on that day that the schools of Pontotoc County came under attack by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the People for the American Way (PAW). It was on Dec. 20 that these two organizations, on behalf of a parent in the Pontotoc County School District, filed a lawsuit in the district's federal court, alleging that religious practices by students in the school district violated the U.S. Constitution.

Pat Mounce is chairwoman of the 45-person committee which has spearheaded the drive to raise \$100,000 to help pay the school district's legal expenses associated with this lawsuit. That goal has been met and exceeded.

The Pontotoc County School District has employed the law firm of Tutor, Henry and Edwards of Pontotoc and Tupelo, and Michael Whitehead of Kansas City, Mo., to represent the school district.

Whitehead said, "The Pontotoc case is one of the most important religious liberty cases in America today. The Pontotoc case is frequently cited in congressional hearings in Washington and in public policy debates

around the country.

"The people of Pontotoc County have shown uncommon commitment to religious liberty. School officials have shown real determination to defend religious liberty for all students in Pontotoc County...."

Pontotoc County School District Superintendent Jerry L. Horton said, "Back in December 1994 when the school board decided to fight this battle, we had no way of knowing just how well the county would support that decision. I believe that the people of Pontotoc County were ready to say to groups like the ACLU and the People for the American Way that it is time for someone to stand up to them."

Doug Jones, pastor of Victory Church, said, "No other issue in my memory has caused this county to come together in such a show of solid support. I have seen the people of Pontotoc County stand tall for strong moral values... when our children were attacked for praying and reading their Bibles in school. It makes me proud to be a citizen of a county that will fight to preserve our heritage and First Amendment rights of free speech."

## New Colo. partnership already stirs requests

Mississippi Baptists will inaugurate a new three-year partnership with the Colorado Baptist General Convention, beginning in January 1996. Colorado Baptists have requested assistance with the following projects:

— **Southeast Mission** is in need of a van for collecting food-stuffs that are distributed as a part of their weekly ministry to

100-150 needy families.

— **Hesperus Church** is seeking one or two people to develop a ministry of worship and also develop a ministry to youth and college students. Housing is provided.

— **First Southern Church of Cortez** is seeking a staff person to manage music, youth, and/or education programs for four months or more. This is a need that must be met as soon as possible. Housing assistance is provided.

— **Fountain Valley Church** is seeking someone to help begin a ministry to 3,000 Filipinos living in the Colorado Springs area. Some financial assistance may be available.

— **Liberty Church** is seeking a lay pastor (couple) to serve six months, involving visitation, preaching, and Bible teaching. Apartment is provided.

— **Flagler Christian Conference Center** is seeking an active retired couple to serve as directors, involving housekeeping and maintenance. Couple should have management and maintenance skills. Term of service could last from six months to two years. Housing is provided.

For more information on these needs and on Mississippi partnership projects in general, contact Bill Hardy, partnership coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



# J. Garland McKee retires after five years in Evangelism Dept.

By Tim Nicholas

J. Garland McKee decided long ago that "the greatest demonstration of selfishness for a Christian is to be satisfied to go to heaven by himself," he said.

If that sounds like the kind of thing a person who witnesses for Jesus on a regular basis would say, you're right.

McKee retires this month as director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, where he has served since January 1991. But long before that, McKee had made a promise to himself and to the Lord.

The promise was to bear a verbal witness to at least one admitted lost person every day for the rest of his life. He made that promise in December of 1959, to begin the following January.

Since then, "I have missed about 70 days in 36 years. I was sick a few days, been in some places where I couldn't speak the language, and," he added, "I just flat forgot some days."

In 1959, McKee was a 29-year-old pastor in Houston, Texas. "I came to realize that lost people do not go to church," he said. "I also found by our people going out in outreach, seeking to witness to lost people... that in about 65% of the homes, nobody was home."

However, McKee observed that people were everywhere else. That's when he made the commitment to witness every day.

"I really do believe that Jesus wants everybody saved," he said, and that "a person without Jesus Christ is going to an everlasting hell. That's been my motivation."

McKee knows he's in a statistical minority group. "Ninety-five percent of all Southern Baptists have not once borne a verbal witness to an admitted lost person. The Home Mission Board has done surveys — that's the sampling," he said.

Although few have accepted Christ on the spot, McKee said that out of more than 13,000 people in more than 40 states and a number of foreign countries, there have been only about 20 who have not allowed him, once he began the witness, to complete the witness.

One man in Hattiesburg was

filling his car with gas as McKee asked, "Sir, are you a Christian? Have you ever given your heart to Jesus?"

The man's response was, "No, sir, I haven't, but I've thought about it and I have had people talk about it."

"I gave him my one minute witness and asked him if he would be willing to give his heart to Jesus right there," said McKee.

The man said yes. "Standing there with my hand on his shoulder, I led him in the sinner's prayer," said McKee. Then a woman approached and said that she was the man's fiancée and was already a Christian and that she was very happy that he is now.

"The mindset of our born again Baptist people in the pews is 'Oh, I can't do that, I'd be rejected,'" said McKee.

"What I'm saying is that if Garland never proves anything else, I have proven that is a lie right out of the pits of hell that Satan is using to keep our Christian people pinned to their padded pews rather than unleash the power of the Holy Spirit out where the lost people are."

McKee said that one of his emphases in evangelism is to challenge others to witness. At this point more than 8,000 Mississippi Baptists have made a commitment to bear a verbal witness on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.

He said he feels the Witness Involvement Now schools are the

best way to teach Christians how to witness. These schools can be scheduled in any church or associational group.

"What I did as a pastor and sought to do since I've been in this position," said McKee, "is to seek to give them (Baptists) confidence by training them — giving them tools with which to work and encourage them to remember that saving a soul is the work solely of the Holy Spirit. We are not soul winners, we are witnesses, and it is impossible to be an unsuccessful witness."

McKee, a Greenville native, is a graduate of Ole Miss and earned the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

He has been pastor of churches in Texas and Louisiana, including Istrouma Church in Baton Rouge, and First Church, Pearlman, Texas. He came to the convention board from the position of evangelism director for the Union Association in Houston.

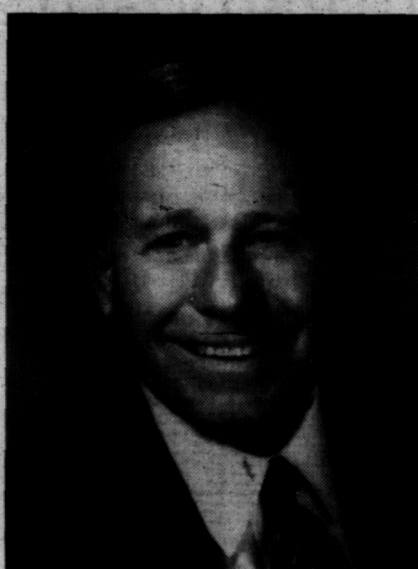
McKee's wife June is an accomplished pianist, and their son Gil is pastor of First Church, West Plains, Mo.

After retirement, McKee plans to continue preaching and to do more personal witnessing, and to "play a lot," he said. He said he likes tennis, table tennis, and golf.

He said if he had 10 more years as evangelism director, he would "seek to lead in sowing down Mississippi with verbal witnesses. Some would say Garland's going to seed over this. I was there in 1976 when we said we Southern Baptists are going to see to it that every person in the world has a witness," he said. "We all knew the only way we'd ever make an indentation was going to be one-on-one."

McKee said he considers his 42 years of preaching "a blessed privilege." But in noting that the last recorded words of Jesus were "Ye shall be my witnesses," McKee said, "This must be the greatest blessing of my life — that I sought to be obedient to Jesus in doing that which he last spoke before he ascended to glory."

Nicholas is director, MBCB Office of Communication.



McKee

## NOBTS trustees elect Billy Smith interim president

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The trustee executive committee of New Orleans Seminary unanimously elected Provost Billy K. Smith as interim president Dec. 12 following a resignation announcement from Landrum P. Leavell II, the seminary's interim president since Dec. 31, 1994.

Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary since January 1975, originally announced his retirement to the seminary's trustee executive committee Dec. 13, 1994, with an effective date of Dec. 31, 1994, but subsequently agreed to the committee's request to remain as interim president. Leavell and his wife Jo Ann

moved to a new home in Wichita Falls, Texas, at the end of March. They have made regular trips back to the seminary campus throughout the academic year. Leavell will officiate at the seminary's mid-session commencement service Dec. 15.

"Words cannot express how much all of us love and appreciate Dr. Leavell," said Edward D. Johnson, NOBTS trustee chairman and pastor of the First Church in Ocala, Fla. "We wish him the very best in his retirement and hope he will be a frequent visitor to the seminary campus."

Leavell, who was named professor emeritus of evangelism in

March, will be named president emeritus during the March 1996 trustee meeting.

"I think Dr. Smith was the natural choice as provost to lead us during this interim period," Johnson said. "We are very excited that he has accepted this responsibility, and we believe that our seminary will be in great shape as we go into a new year."

"I am committed to seeing the seminary through this time of transition," Smith said. "At this point I feel that is my responsibility. The response of the faculty has been very affirming and encouraging."

Smith has served at New Orleans Seminary since 1976. A

Thursday, December 21, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

## Offering goal surpassed

Mississippi Baptists have exceeded their goal for gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, according to Marjean Patterson, executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, which promotes the giving effort. The 1995 goal for the offering was \$705,350. Receipts through Dec. 18 totalled \$715,318. Money collected through the special offering goes toward financing ministries in the state of Mississippi, including: the operation of camps Garaywa and Central Hills, disaster relief units, Parchman and other prison ministries, and pastoral/church building aid. In response to Mississippi Baptists' generosity, Patterson said, "Thank you!"

## Six faculty members will leave Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE (ABP) — Six faculty members have announced resignations from Southern Seminary this fall, with some departures effective this month and others to be effective in the spring.

The six are:

— David Dockery, vice president for academic administration and professor of theology, who will become president of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., in May.

— Janet Spessart, acting dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work, who will become associate professor of social work at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, N.Y., after this academic year.

— David D'Amico, professor of evangelism, who has been appointed by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to serve as a missionary to the diplomatic community in New York City, effective soon after the first of the year.

— John Hendrix, professor of Christian education, who has been called as pastor of Northside Church in Clinton, Miss., effective Jan. 1.

— Mary Alice Seals, assistant professor of church music, who will become associate professor of church music and assistant to the dean at Gardner-Webb University's divinity school, effective in January.

— Rebecca Russell, assistant professor of church music, who resigned at the beginning of this academic year and now is teaching at the University of Kentucky.

Spessart's resignation could have the most immediate impact on students, since she is one of only two full-time faculty members remaining in the Carver School. Seminary trustees have

voted to discontinue the master of social work degree program, which is the primary degree offered in the Carver School.

The seminary's administration has been seeking to transfer that degree program to another Baptist institution, but no deal has yet been struck. After this spring, 24 students will remain in the Carver School lacking only one year of study to complete their degrees.

A primary concern of these remaining students is whether the master of social work degree program will retain its accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education.

Spessart said her resignation will not be the sole determining factor in that accrediting decision, but could be one factor. "It's going to be a total picture. They will be looking at an array of things: How many students will be here? Who is on board to provide leadership? What kind of educational plan is available for the students?"

## Dec. 28-29 Youth Conf. set for MC

The Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference will be held Dec. 28-29 at the Mississippi College Coliseum in Clinton.

Registration will begin at noon on Dec. 28; the conference will begin at 2 p.m.

East to West, Christian music duo, will appear in concert on Dec. 28 at 7:45 p.m.

The conference will conclude at 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 29.

Bill Jones, of Columbia, S.C., will be speaker for the event. Jones is executive director of Crossover Communications International missions organization, and a noted author and speaker.

Images Creative Group will lead worship music. Images is a trio of three performers who will combine comedy, drama, and music to portray biblical principles with a contemporary twist.

Registration is \$5 at the door. Sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the Youth Evangelism Conference is open to any individual or church group. For more information, contact the Evangelism Department at (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson, (800) 748-1651.



# Miss. partnership team first of many to Venezuela

By Tim Nicholas

Maracaibo, Venezuela, is called the hottest city in South America — but at 95 in the shade, it's just an average summer day for visitors from Mississippi.

That doesn't mean the group of Mississippi Baptist directors of missions, who conducted a series of evangelistic crusades in Maracaibo in November, didn't notice the heat. They got hot and tired, walking down the streets witnessing every day with Venezuelan Baptist volunteers, and then preaching nightly across metropolitan Maracaibo.

The results of the crusades more than made up for their weariness. The eight Mississippi ministers, along with 31 Missouri lay people; dozens of Venezuelans; and a group of Southern Baptist missionaries, reported 1,300 professions of faith in nine days.

The Nov. 3-13 trip by the Mississippians served as a kick-off for the three-year missions partnership between Mississippi and

Venezuela Baptists, which will begin in Jan. 1996.

Coordinator of the evangelistic project and the upcoming partnership is Dave Browder, a missionary usually assigned to church development with an emphasis on deaf work.

He said most of his time will be going toward the partnership, with the inherent difficulties of bringing people and projects together.

The Mississippi-based coordinator is Bill Hardy, director of partnership missions for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

Mississippi and Missouri volunteers were scattered across the city of Maracaibo, which has a population of more than two million people. There are 38 churches in the local association, and many of the churches operate missions and preaching points.

The churches meet under the widest variety of conditions, from air conditioned buildings with a good sound system, to a concrete block building with a plastic patio cover, to a front yard.

One of the missions, meeting in the mission pastor's home, had a slight disturbance not likely to be repeated in Mississippi. A dog chased a two-foot long, bright-green iguana through the living room/sanctuary, out the front door, and into some bushes.

A big departure from the mission team's home visitation was a baseball clinic for 75-100 boys led by Eddie Hamilton, director of missions for Metro Association and a former coach in Tishomingo County.

"I showed some hitting techniques. They wanted to know how to throw a curve, slider, and a circle change," he said.

Hamilton witnessed to the young men, who were from late teens to early 20s in age, and gave illustrations about major league ball players who were Christians.

He told of Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, baptizing major league baseball pitcher Orel Hersheiser and Frank Thomas,

pastor of Alta Woods Church, Jackson, baptizing Ned Yost, bullpen coach for the Atlanta Braves.

Ten of the young people in the clinic made professions of faith.

"Almost every teenage athlete in Venezuela dreams of playing in the major leagues," said Hamilton. Sports clinics and demonstration teams are "a fantastic way of reaching youth for Christ," he said.

The Venezuela Baptists were joyous and energetic. The people to whom the Americans witnessed virtually always were gracious in listening. That made the street visitation easier for the Mississippians, who were a distinct novelty in most neighborhoods.

However, communication was not always easy. Joe Abel, director of missions for Leake Association, said it was a different kind of witness.

"I speak no Spanish and went (visiting) several days with people who spoke no English," he said. Despite that seeming barrier, "several were won to Jesus," he said.

In Venezuela, barriers were broken, burned, and their ashes scattered. The Mississippians, first among those expected to visit in connection with the new partner-



Bill Smith (left), director of missions for Lee Association, preaches in a home church in the barrio Carabobo in Maracaibo. The house church is a mission of Redemption Baptist Church, which has two missions and is planning two more. Translating for Smith is Gene Kimler, a long-time missionary to Venezuela. During this Sunday morning service, a dog chased a two-foot-long, bright green iguana through the house.

ship, returned home convinced that nothing can stand between dedicated Christians and a people hungry for the gospel.

For more information on the Mississippi/Venezuela Partnership and other partnership projects, contact Bill Hardy, partnership

coordinator of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Nicholas is director, MCB Office of Communication.

## Mississippians return from Venezuela with warm memories of mission trip

Eddie Hamilton, director of missions for Metro Association said while preaching in Venezuela that he'd been giving out candy all week to the kids. "The last night there were 150 children with their hands outstretched," said Hamilton — except for one little girl. "She had a gift in her hand," he said. It was a piece of cactus fruit for him.

Each Mississippi visitor brought home memories of the wonderful experiences they had — pictures they carry in their hearts of the people they met and with whom they worked.

Don Stanfill, director of missions for Marshall Association, said "I can still see that real hunger for help and hunger for the Word of the Lord. It's very much like other places that I've been. There's a tremendous need — especially there needs to be a good follow up program to the evangelism done there to make sure it's lasting."

Bobby Waggoner, director of missions for Attala Association, said he pictures Joachim Alvarado, a man whose wife had been praying for 27 years that he would become a Christian.

"He was saved and is now pastoring for a year (at) the Church of the Restoration. He will retire and go there full time," Waggoner said.

Church of the Restoration is currently an open-air pavilion with a baptistry, but Waggoner said Alvarado has a vision for a medical and child care facility and a vast ministry.

Don Wilson, director of the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, pictures a woman who

was widowed five years ago when her baby was 13 days old.

"She raised three children alone these five years. I talked with her about the plan of salvation, that Jesus loves us," said Wilson.

The woman told him, "I've always known that somebody was watching out after me. Nobody has ever told me before that Jesus loves me. I want him to be my Savior."

She made a profession of faith and asked the interpreter to go with her the next day to meet some of her friends, Wilson said.

Eddie Hamilton sees witnesses for Jesus. "One of the most committed women I met was a young mother about (age) 30 who had seven children and lived in a 20 x 20-foot tin building with no door on it. Her husband was in prison for armed robbery and for beating her, but she had one of the most beautiful smiles and testimonies. She wit-

nessed with us all four days we were in that community," he said.

Bill Duncan, director of missions for Clay, Lowndes, and Oktibbeha Associations, said, "The impression I came back with was that we have many dedicated, effective missionaries who planted their lives down there but are limited with resources at a very critical time in the life of that country."

"I came back with a tremendous burden for giving the financial support that would help them accomplish the mission they must do," Duncan said.

For more information on the Mississippi/Venezuela Partnership and other partnership projects, contact Bill Hardy, partnership coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Bill Duncan (left), director of missions for Clay, Lowndes, and Oktibbeha associations, shares his testimony with a Venezuelan woman. Before he went on the Maracaibo crusade, Duncan asked Aurora Nunez, a Venezuelan graduate student at Mississippi State University, to translate his testimony into Spanish. Duncan met Nunez during a Spanish Bible study at International Friendship House in Columbus, Miss.



Veteran Venezuelan missionary Buck Smith (left) visits with Francisco Andrade (center) and Don Wilson prior to services at Los Guayabitos, a church located about an hour's drive east of Maracaibo. Andrade is pastor. Wilson, director of the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was one of eight Mississippians conducting November revival crusades in the Maracaibo area. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)

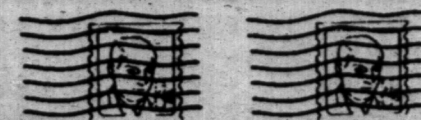


Eddie Hamilton (left), director of missions for Metro Association, preaches an English-language sermon at La Fe Baptist Church, while Andrea Negro translates into Spanish. The North Americans utilized translators in order to communicate with the Spanish-speaking Venezuelans.





# Letters to the editor



## Med teams restricted

Editor:

We received word at our October Executive Committee meeting that we can no longer request medical/dental teams from the U.S. This applies to all of Brazil. Brazilian law will not permit a foreign doctor or dentist to practice unless a Brazilian doctor or dentist is present, with the Brazilian making all decisions. Medical personnel can come to teach at a university medical/dental school or to train nurses and medical staff at hospitals.

A construction/evangelism team is coming May 23-31. They will do some electrical work and painting at our camp and some of our churches. They will stay at our camp and will make evangelistic visits in the afternoons and preach in some of our newest churches at night.

I would like to share a few facts with you so you will understand more about the state where we are working. According to government figures, 55.5% of the population of Piaui live below the poverty level. There are 1.5 million Piauienses living in extreme poverty; 46.6% of the population is illiterate; 22% of the children between the ages of 10 and 14 do not attend school; 56.2% of the population earns less than \$30 a month; 10% of the population keeps 50% of the wealth produced in Piaui. In Teresina, our state capital, the population is over 600,000. There are 158 slums and villas in existence. We have 19

organized churches and eight missions in Teresina. Our state convention has a total of 39 churches. Six career missionaries and one International Service Corp volunteer serve our state, which has a population of approximately 3.25 million people. We have lots of work to do!

Don't forget to give Jesus a present this Christmas. It is his birthday we are celebrating. Help us reach the \$100 million Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal. I know we need it down here in Brazil, and I'm sure missionaries from all over the world would say the same thing.

Vic and Sharon Johnston  
SBC missionaries  
Teresina, Brazil

## We're missing out

Editor:

I'm not surprised, but very disappointed to read of the firing of Charles and Sharon Carroll, FMB (Foreign Mission Board) missionaries to Singapore. Their work there was certainly a testimony of being under God's mantle of blessing. Their fruitful ministry will continue, however, and it will go on to bless others and be instrumental in harvesting souls for the kingdom with or without the blessing of the FMB.

Unfortunately though, this careless act by Jerry Rankin, FMB president, is not atypical decision-making by the religious hierarchy within the Southern Baptist Convention. Mr. Rankin is quoted in the article as saying

that charismatic practices at the Carrolls church "caused dissension and confusion." The confused parties here are clearly Jerry Rankin, the FMB, and all within the Southern Baptist Convention who adhere to the erroneous logic of cessationism. The Bible is a voluminous record of the wondrous works of the Spirit — all the gifts of the Spirit. No where does it say that certain of these works, signs, and wonders, have ceased.

Why does the most severe opposition to a true work of God come from our religious leaders, when in fact they should be the first to recognize a move of God? The so-called charismatic renewal has been prolific with godly signs and wonders for years, and is a pronounced move of God, period. Unfortunately most in the largest evangelical denomination in the United States are still missing all God wants them — and all his children — to receive in spirit and truth.

James M. Davis  
Baldwyn

## Building pays off

Editor:

This letter is to say thank you to the group that came to Argentina Nov. 7-17 to do construction work on the Monte Chingolo Baptist Church. They made us proud not only to be [Southern Baptist] missionaries but to be missionaries from Mississippi. In eight days, four of which were partly lost to rain, the team almost bricked a two-story structure with a stairway. The people were impressed with their work, but even more so with their testimony. Thank you Bobby Perry, the Gulf Coast Baptist Association, and Mississippi Baptists.

Let me share with you three results of the trip. Across the street from the church was another building project. After two days, the foreman of that project crossed the street to admire the team's work. He said that he had never seen work being done so fast, yet better than what you usually see in Argentina. He asked, "How are they doing it?" A

church member responded, "Because they like what they are doing."

His second question was "Why did these people come from so far to work without pay?" The same member responded that it was because they love God. This is an open door for a later witness.

One day, one of the team members asked Al to purchase a drill bit and nails from the store down the street. He was told that a team member purchased bits from this store.

While there he was asked questions about the building, the team member, and then about what made that church different. He was able to share with them about the church and its teaching, the Bible, and love of God. They said that they wanted to attend the church to learn more about their message. This door was opened because team members were not afraid to go into a store without the knowledge of the language and make a purchase. Our heart speaks much louder than we ever could with the language.

On the last day, Nestor (one of the laymen of the church) told Emily that the building was not the most important thing that the church received from the team. It was their love and willingness to sacrifice in order to do something for the Lord. Emily told them about a feeding project that needed some minor construction and asked if he thought the church would like to put what they had learned into action. With tears in his eyes, Nestor said, "Yes, I think we would."

These are but examples of what happened because Mississippi Baptists cared enough to put feet to their prayers and make a difference. If you want to know more about your work in Argentina, we can be reached at Bolanos 141; 1407 Capital Federal; Argentina, by fax at 011-541-636-2231 or e-mail at: green@udmbauti.org.ar.

Al and Emily Green  
Mississippi FMB missionaries

## Passing of a leader

Editor:

The translation of Herschel Hobbs silences the voice of moderation among us. He served effectively as pastor, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and as radio preacher. Perhaps his most significant work was serving as chairman of the committee that re-wrote **The Baptist Faith and Message**. It was my privilege to serve as a member of the commit-

tee. **The Baptist Faith and Message** is a formula for many of the truths we hold in common.

He was one of the more effective leaders of his generation. He saw the convention grow from 4 million to over 15 million.

His academic insight tempered with spiritual discernment commanded the respect of all who knew him.

The Southern Baptist Convention has lost one of its greatest leaders of his generation.

C.Z. Holland  
Clinton

## Painful termination

Editor:

To say "thank you" is easily done on many occasions. I can't begin to thank fellow ministers who have called or come by my study. If you haven't experienced a termination, then you will only be able to sympathize.

To end a relationship with people you have loved, prayed for, encouraged, wept with, and laughed with in such an abrupt manner takes time to heal. It tends to cause emotions that you have preached against and fought for years. There have been times when you have disagreed, but to experience anger of this nature isn't a pleasant experience. The scriptures flood your mind, like Jesus' words to pray for them that despitefully use you. But again the Holy Spirit helps you realize the true prayer God wants you to pray is: Father forgive us for we have sinned and failed to honor you with our thoughts or actions. It would be great if one could pick up the pieces and go on, but there is damage control that must be put into force.

I am still finding out the impact this is making on my family. I am finding the deepest injury is in the minister's mate.

Now back to the true purpose of this letter. To my sister churches and associational leadership that have expressed their love and support, I repeat, "thank you." Having talked with our state leadership and experienced their willingness to listen, understanding, and helpfulness, again I say, "Thank You."

A special thank you that I can't group with others is the loving fellowship of Four Mile Creek Church and their pastor Tommy Brill. They received us with open arms. Knowing there would be a shortage of funds, they have allowed me to serve on staff to support efforts to reach their community for Christ.

Finally, how can we help in these situations? Whether you know what to say or not, if you care, do something. It will help and you will feel better, too. I am available for supply and can be reached at 762-7753 or 475-8244. Please leave a message on the answering machine.

Tom Miller  
Pascagoula

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# Just for the Record



**Fellowship Church, Mathiston**, held a GA recognition service on Oct. 8 with the theme "Letting Our Light Shine." It has been over 10 years since Fellowship Church has held a recognition service for its GAs. Those honored are (from left): back row, Robin Holt, Candice Holt, Terri Leggett, Donna Holloway; front row, Lisa Bennett and Erin Sanderson. Rhonda Crowley is GA leader and Eva Cain is WMU director.

**First Church, Byram**, will host "Ring in the New Year with Gospel Music," on Dec. 31 beginning at 7 p.m. Groups scheduled to perform will include the Watchmen quartet, Witness, Harmony, and other church groups and individuals. A midnight fireworks display will close the program. For

more information call the church at (601) 372-3156.

**The sanctuary choir of Cloverdale Church, Natchez**, will perform its Christmas cantata, "Love, Light & Life," on Dec. 24 during the church's morning worship hour at 11 a.m. Bruce McCall,

Cloverdale's minister of music, will direct the choir. David McGuffee is pastor. For more information, call the church at (601) 442-6305.

**Emmanuel Church, Grenada**, will host a Women's Prayer Challenge conference, Jan. 12-13. It will begin with a 7 p.m. session on Friday, Jan. 12. The conference will be led by Jennifer Kennedy Dean, author of *The Praying Life*, and is offered jointly by the prayer coordinator and the Woman's Missionary Union of North Central Association. Cost is \$20 per person; registration deadline is Jan. 5. For more information or to register, call (601) 226-5071 or 226-2869.

**Public Radio in Mississippi (PRM)** will air portions of Mississippi College's 10th annual **Festival of Lights** during its Mississippi Concert Hall program from 7-8 p.m. on Dec. 21. PRM officials have announced. Performances to be featured during the program include several works by the Mississippi College Chamber Choir, Concert Chorale, Concert Singers, and Concert Ringers.



**Friendship East Church, Charleston**, recently held a service honoring two of its deacons. Travis Shaw (center, pictured with his wife Louise) has served 21 years. Harvey Donaldson Sr., not pictured, served for 23 years. Both men were given a plaque from the church. J.G. Thomas (right) is pastor.

## FMB

From page 3

growing up he also lived in Fishers, which he considers his hometown. He also considers Frederick Boulevard Church in St. Joseph, Mo., his home church.

He received the bachelor of science degree from Indiana University in Bloomington and the master of divinity in biblical languages degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

He was a HMB summer missionary in Iowa and an FMB journeyman in Scotland. He also made mission trips to Brazil, Mexico, and India.

Born and reared in Meridian, Mrs. Beaman, the former Lenora Salley, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Salley of that city. She considers Poplar Springs Drive Church there her home church.

She received the associate of arts degree from Meridian Community College and the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University.

She was an elementary teacher at Lake Country Christian School in Fort Worth, an FMB journeyman in West Africa, and a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Idaho.

As missionary associates the Lightseys will live in El Salvador, where he will work in literature and evangelism.

Recently he was finance administrator for Lockheed Martin Manned Space Systems in New Orleans. They are members of First Church in Slidell, La.

Born in Laurel, Lightsey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Lightsey of Sandersville. He grew up in Sandersville and considers it his hometown. He considers First

Church in Slidell his home church.

He received the associate of arts degree from Jones County Junior College, and the bachelor of science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. He also attended New Orleans Seminary.

He was a computer programmer for Bush Construction Co. in Laurel. He also made mission trips to Mexico and Belize.

Born in Columbia, Mrs. Lightsey, the former Rebecca Watts, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Watts of Laurel. While growing up she lived in Laurel and considers it her hometown. She considers First Church in Slidell her home church. Recently she was a childcare worker there.

The Lightseys have two children.

The Trotters will live in South Africa, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1993 he has been pastor of Enterprise Church, Clarke Association.

Born in Sunflower County, Trotter is the son of Martha Trotter of Pensacola, Fla., and the late Robert W. Trotter. His father was director of pastoral care at Baptist Hospital in Pensacola.

While growing up he also lived in Moorhead; Waco, Texas; and Kenner, La. He considers Pensacola his hometown and First Church there his home church.

He received the bachelor of professional accounting degree from Mississippi State University, the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort

Worth, and the certificate in clinical pastoral education from Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

He was pastor of Fellowship Church in Mathiston; minister of youth and activities at First Church, Kosciusko; a chaplain at Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City; an HMB summer missionary in Arkansas; and a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Bophuthatswana.

Born in Memphis, Mrs. Trotter, the former Demetria (Dede) Sturdivant, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max Sturdivant of Oxford. While growing up she also lived in Oxford and Ashland. She considers Oxford her hometown and Temple Heights Church there her home church.

She received the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi State University.

Recently she was an aerobics instructor in Enterprise. She was a certified optician with Wedgwood Optical in Fort Worth and an HMB summer missionary with her husband in Arkansas.

The Trotters have two children.

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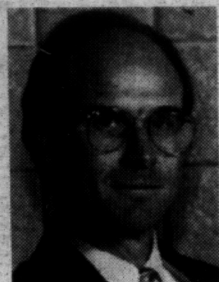
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## Names in the News

William E. Whitfield III, of Gulfport, recently received the 1995 Alumnus of the Year Award at the University of Mobile during homecoming festivities. Whitfield was chosen by a committee of alumni and university officials based upon his outstanding



Whitfield

business contributions and community service. A 1977 graduate of the University of Mobile, he attended Mississippi College School of Law where he received the juris doctorate in 1981.

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP) — In a special meeting of Union University's board of trustees Dec. 8, David S. Dockery was named the Jackson, Tenn., school's 15th president. Dockery, 43, is vice president of academic administration and dean of the school of theology at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., joining the seminary staff in 1992. Dockery succeeds Hyran Barefoot, who assumed the presidency in 1987 and will retire from the post May 31 to assume the newly-created position of chancellor. In addition to his presidential duties, Dockery will serve on the faculty as professor of Christian studies.

Mississippi College has named 101-year-old Anise McDaniel of Clinton, a longtime supporter of the college, as its 1996 Annual Fund chairperson. McDaniel, whose late husband, six children, and several grandchildren attended Mississippi College, will be responsible for spearheading the college's annual effort to raise funds from alumni and supporters. "Over the long years of my connection with Mississippi College, I've come to love it," notes McDaniel, who will celebrate her 102nd birthday on Feb. 26. "I would advise anyone... that Mississippi College can't be beat."

William Carey College recently honored Jacqueline P. Rogers of Collins with the Distinguished Alumna Award. An English teacher at Collins High School, Rogers has received numerous honors, awards, and grants, including the 1988 Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Award worth over \$25,000. She was named Mississippi's 1989 Fourth Congressional District Teacher of the Year. Rogers received the Disney Channel's American Teacher Award in 1993. She was among 35 teachers from across the nation honored for their work.

William Carey College recently honored Emma Fancher Beemon of Raymond with the Mississippi Women's College Distinguished Alumna Award. A retired mathematics instructor from Hinds Community College, Beemon served that institution for over 36 years. Beemon graduated from Mississippi Women's College (MWC) in 1939. MWC was later named William Carey College.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (ABP) — Louisiana pastor Emil Turner has been elected executive director of the Arkansas Convention. Turner, 45, pastor of First Church in Lake Charles, La., was elected Dec. 12 by unanimous vote of the state convention's executive board. He will begin his new job



Jay Baucom, minister of music at Wildwood Church, Laurel, was honored with a reception on his 10th anniversary of service to the church. He is pictured above with his wife Sandra.

Jan. 15. He succeeds Don Moore, who retires in February as the top administrator at the 500,000-member state convention. A graduate of Louisiana State University and New Orleans Seminary, Turner currently is a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board (FMB).

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP) — Veteran Baptist journalist Bill Webb has been elected editor of Word & Way, weekly newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention, with 50,000 subscribers. Webb, 45, of Springfield, Ill., was elected unanimously Dec. 12 by the Missouri Baptist executive board. Webb will begin work March 1. He succeeds 20-year editor Bob Terry, who left the paper in August to become editor of the Alabama Baptist. Since 1984, Webb has been editor of the Illinois Baptist, newspaper for the Illinois State Association with 11,000 subscribers. Before that he worked as a news writer for the FMB. A native of Mount Vernon, Ill., Webb is a graduate of Southern Illinois University. He also attended Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Richard J. Shropshire is available for a full-time pastorate or staff position, revivals, and conferences. He and his wife Cheryl are available for concerts and conferences. For further information, write to 342 Dianne Dr., Biloxi, MS 39532 or call (601) 392-2608.

Katy Gray Myers, 81, died Dec. 16 in Cleveland. She was the mother of Lewis T. Myers, FMB vice president for World A strategies in Richmond, Va. Mrs. Myers' funeral services were held at First Church, Cleveland, where she was an active member. She was buried in Cleveland on Dec. 18. In addition to son Louis, she is survived by another son and a daughter.

The churches of Prentiss Association will host a reception in honor of Harris Counce on Dec. 31, beginning at 2 p.m. in the associational offices. That day is Counce's last after 12 years as director of missions for the association.



Members with perfect attendance in Sunday School at New Hope Church, Foxworth, are (pictured above) Peggy Stringer, seven years; Beverly Kroner, two years; Bonnie Pittman, six years; Amy Lowery, eight years; Karla Ratliff, four years; Nancy Thomas, 13 years; Tiffany Kroner, seven years; second row, Kasey Pittman, four years; Dustin Stringer, 12 years; Pud Stringer, five years; Jimmy Thomas 26 years; Brandie Magee, 14 years; Kim Lowery, eight years; B.B. Stringer, 40 years; Sherrell Magee, 14 years, and Donald Lowery, seven years.

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## Uniform For those seeking peace



By Andy Brasher  
Isaiah 11, Luke 2

The other afternoon while I was watching the evening news, my heart was torn and saddened at the violence raging in the former nation of Yugoslavia. The safe or peace havens, specific cities within the region, had been ravaged by bombing and gun fire. The television showed children dead in the streets, young men escorted away for execution, and many more left homeless. All of these atrocities were committed in the name of ethnic and religious cleansing. Unless a miracle takes place, these people will know no peace this Christmas.

I've often contemplated: Why is violence and unrest more prolific than peace and harmony? Maybe it has something to do with our very nature, a nature rooted in and flawed by sin.

The war-torn and divided nation of Yugoslavia needs a peacemaker, or better yet, the people need to have the hearts of peacemakers. It seems that the job of peacemaker is beyond the scope of any mortal man, but is it beyond the scope of the God-Man? Real peace comes when individuals realize and experience the God-Man within themselves. Peace is afforded to everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord.

Isaiah wrote: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child will lead them" (Isa. 11:6).

I've often asked the question, "How could a child tend to and promote harmony between the wild and domestic animals?"

Possibly, this child had the rare ability to relate to both, or could it be that his very nature was harmony and peace. It has been said that music can tame the beast. Is it possible, then, that this child's nature was like music, capable of soothing the lamb and the lion, or even the saint and the sinner? If so, what a special child indeed.

In the gospel of Luke, the writer tells the identity of this child. "... And the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). Thus, the child recorded in Isaiah 11:1-6 is the same child proclaimed in Luke 2:10-11. The child spoken of in both instances is the Christ child, and only he can bring true peace to all men. For this child is known as the Messiah, the King of kings, and the Prince of Peace. He is Christ the Lord!

In closing, let me say it has been my pleasure and privilege to write this series on the Uniform study for **The Baptist Record**. My appreciation and thanks go to Guy Henderson and the wonderful staff at **The Baptist Record** who asked me to write and who edited the deficiencies of my work.

It is my prayer that God has blessed you, the readers, with this study in spite of my limited knowledge and skill as a writer.

May God Bless, and Merry Christmas To All!  
Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.



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## Bible Book The Savior's birth



By Larry McDonald  
Matthew 1, 2

Brenda Roberts of Stone Mountain, Ga., told of one morning when she was reading the story of Jesus' birth to her day-care children. As usual, she stopped to see if they understood.

"What do we call the three wise men?" she asked.

"The three maggots," replied a bright 5-year-old.

"What gift did the Magi bring baby Jesus?" she corrected.

"Gold, Frankensteins, and smurfs!" the same 5-year-old replied.

In another situation it came time for the annual Christmas play. Sarah was given the part of the angel. She practiced her line faithfully: "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy." Over and over again she practiced it, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy." The night of the play finally arrived. Sarah walked on stage but could not remember her line. Dead silence followed. Finally, she blurted out, "Boy, do I have good news for you!"

Christmas is a fun time to watch children. In their excitement they often do get the facts mixed up. We get many chuckles out of their exuberance for the season. But it is not quite so funny when we as adults still miss the real "reason for the season." Even though Christmas rolls around year after year, somehow many still get the facts wrong. Let's once again review the facts of the Savior's birth.

**First, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream (1:20-21).** The angel told Joseph not to be afraid of taking Mary as his wife even though she was pregnant. Joseph and Mary were in a period of betrothment. This betrothment was like an engagement period yet had a higher level of commitment involved in it than engagements do today.

The angel told Mary that the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name would be Jesus and he would save his people from their sins.

**Second, the birth of Jesus fulfilled prophecy (1:22-23).** In Isaiah, the prophet foretold the birth of a child by a virgin. This child would be called Immanuel which means "God with us."

**Third, the wise men sought the newborn king (2:1-2; 10-11).** Magi from the east saw a star and followed that star to Bethlehem. They found Jesus and presented him with gifts of "gold, frankincense, and myrrh." As they gave these gifts they "fell down and worshiped" him.

**Fourth, Joseph took his family to safety in Egypt (2:13-15).** An angel once again appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel warned him of Herod's plot to kill every male child under two years of age. The angel instructed Joseph to take his family to Egypt. Jesus' life was spared.

In a famous cathedral in Rome, a magnificent painting radiates beauty. Every colorful detail has been painted with patience, but for centuries, few visitors to the cathedral actually appreciated this work of art. The problem was its location. It was at the top of the cathedral, on the dome. People who tried to look at it received a stiff neck and eyestrain. This physical discomfort prevented enjoyment and appreciation of the masterpiece.

Finally, somebody with common sense solved the centuries-old problem. A large mirror was placed just above the floor level. A sight once too distant and difficult to behold was, in effect, brought down to a more human level. Guests can now be seated, study, and appreciate all the splendor of this superb painting.

In a way, this is also the story of the Christ child. God, once seen only partially, can now be seen clearly in Jesus. Jesus reveals God, shows God's nature, tells us God's teachings. In Christ, God is revealed. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

## Life and Work Faces around the manger



By Bob Rogers  
Luke 2

Do you ever wish you could have been present at the birth of Christ? Perhaps you were there, for the first faces seen as the newborn Christ opened his tiny eyes represent many of us today.

**The faces of Mary and Joseph.** The first faces seen by Jesus, of course, were those of Mary and Joseph; faces that were probably worried, harassed, and even humiliated.

Joseph went to Bethlehem with Mary, "who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child" (v. 5).

Mary and Joseph most likely suffered from much gossip because of her pregnancy, for they were still not married, and yet she was obviously pregnant. Perhaps this scandal was a contributing factor to there being no room at the inn for them (v. 7). Certainly they were discouraged at the prospect of having their baby in a stable.

Are you discouraged, frustrated, and worried this Christmas? Then you were there at the first Christmas with Mary and Joseph.

**The faces of the shepherds.** The next faces that Jesus saw were those of the shepherds, faces of humility and amazement. The angel announced Jesus' birth to "shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night" (v. 8).

The shepherds were as ostracized as Mary and Joseph. Because their occupation required them to stay with the sheep, they missed attending synagogue services and were considered unclean. The testimony of shepherds was not considered valid in court, for they had a reputation of dishonesty.

The angel proclaimed in grand style that the Savior had been born in "the town of David" (Bethlehem was the hometown of King David), and "he is Christ the Lord" (v. 11). Then, with an ironic twist, he said that the sign would be to "find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger" (v. 12).

To have the same impact on us today, the angel could have said something such as, "Today the new king of the universe has been born, and this is the evidence: you will find the baby wrapped in a wet diaper and lying in the kitchen sink of an old trailer."

The angel was saying that although they were lowly shepherds, God had reached down and included them in his great plan of salvation. That is why the angel stressed that his good news was "for all the people" (v. 10).

Do you feel ostracized, forgotten, and lonely this Christmas? Then you were there that first Christmas in the eyes of the shepherds. Do you come to Christ today in amazement that he has been born for you? Then you were there that first Christmas.

**The face of Simeon.** Eight days after his birth, Mary and Joseph, being good Jewish parents, took Jesus to the temple to be circumcised and dedicated to the Lord. One of the faces Jesus saw that day was the face of Simeon, a prophet who "was waiting for the consolation of Israel" (v. 25).

Simeon was a man who listened for God to speak to him. The Holy Spirit had told him that he would not die before he saw the promised Messiah. Still listening to God, he was "moved by the Spirit" (v. 27) to go to the temple courts, and there he met the baby Jesus as his parents were bringing him in.

Simeon took the Christ child in his arms and sang a prayer of praise to God (v. 29-32).

In the face of Simeon, Jesus saw faith. He saw a man who longed for God to come, and when God came, he believed. Do you believe? Have you trusted in Christ as your personal Savior? If you have, then you were there that first Christmas, too.

**Questions to consider:** What other faces were among the first to be seen by Christ? What reactions might they represent?

Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.



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A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mrs. Rosalie O'Donnell  
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Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Carroll  
Mrs. Pauline Orr  
Mr. & Mrs. Willis H. Morgan  
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Arlington Heights BC  
Mr. Paul Burnell Osborn  
Mrs. Margaret O. Mahoney  
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Mrs. Mary Nell May  
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Rev. & Mrs. William F. Evans  
Mr. Hal Pledger  
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Roy Plunkett  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Gowan  
Mrs. Bonnie Polk  
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Wallace  
Mr. Wingo Poole  
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Mr. B. L. Puckett  
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Mrs. Elsie Rogers  
Miss Mildred Reynolds  
Mr. Butelle Graham  
Ms. Mary Hall Graham  
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Mrs. Pauline Roberts  
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Mrs. Jessie M. Rochelle  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin G. Evans  
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Clyde Russell  
Ms. Lisa H. Moon  
Mrs. Thelma Russell  
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Herman Rutt  
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Hill  
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Mr. & Mrs. Bennett Cliburn  
Mrs. Edith Shumpert  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W. Southerland, Jr.  
Kenneth Shute  
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Carter  
Mr. Richard Simmons  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Johnson  
C. E. Singleton  
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Mitchell  
Ronnie Sistrunk  
Mr. & Mrs. Wade C. Donnell  
Bo Smith  
Ruth SS, Bovina Baptist Church  
Jeanette Smith  
Mrs. Charlie King  
Mr. James Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. John Wayne VanHorn  
Mr. Luther Smith  
Mrs. Ray W. Penn  
Mrs. Elbert Smith  
Mrs. Linda C. Mabry  
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Mitchell Puckett  
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Booth F. Stanfield  
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Dorcas SS, Clear Creek BC  
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Bill & Doris Stanley & Family  
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Leroy Caldwell SS, Hollandale BC  
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Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth R. Robertson  
Mrs. June Study  
Ms. Lucy Emily Anderson  
Mr. Wilbur Sullivan  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Beattie  
Bill Taylor  
Ms. Susan S. Warren  
Howard Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Tindle  
Mr. Landman Teller, Sr.  
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George Thomas  
Ms. Bobbie Ruth Anthony  
Jerry Thorn  
Kolola Springs Baptist Church  
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Mrs. H. L. Thompson  
Mr. E. W. Tidwell  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Powers  
Mr. Ezra Jack Tidwell  
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Sanderford  
Mr. Wesley Tolar  
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Mr. & Mrs. Joe P. Kirby, Jr.  
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Graeber Brothers, Inc.  
Ulysses Trotter  
Graeber Brothers, Inc.  
Mrs. Otis Vanlandingham  
Graeber Brothers, Inc.  
Mrs. Thelma Vickers  
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Mr. John Waller  
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ward  
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Prentiss Wedgeworth  
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Mrs. Grace Weller  
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Calton Wells  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Wells  
James (Jim) Wells  
Gilmore Memorial Hospital  
Fishers for Men SS, FBC-Amory  
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Lewis  
Patsy Whitley  
Bovina Baptist Church  
Ruth SS, Bovina Baptist Church  
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Chase Wilbanks  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Carroll  
Floyd Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Makamson  
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Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Newman  
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Dr. & Mrs. Billy Broome  
Jeff Harlan  
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Mr. & Mrs. Tommy C. Miller  
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Mrs. Evelyn B. Scott  
Ms. Nell C. Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Homer Bufkin  
Mr. & Mrs. DeWitt Craft  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank B. Fortenberry  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Gordon  
Mrs. Marion Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Hazlewood  
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Bobby Wilson's Father  
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Sterling Danielle Winstead  
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Miss Jayne Woods  
Mr. Lerran Woods  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Poole & Sons  
Mr. John Wright  
Kolola Springs Baptist Church  
Mr. Jack Zachry  
Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Jones

### OCT. 1, 1995- OCT. 31, 1995

#### HONORS

Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Baker  
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Dr. & Mrs. Larry Braidfoot & Laura  
Beth  
Ms. Betty N. Griffith  
Mrs. O. D. Brannon  
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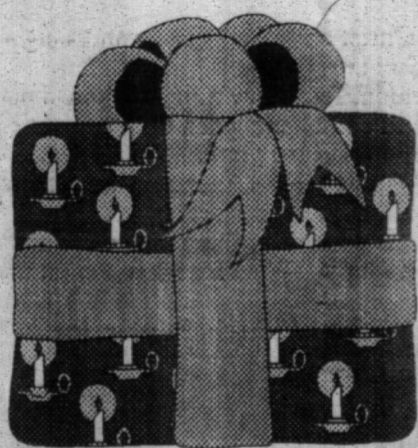
#### MEMORIALS

Chris Gay, IV  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald B. Bosarge  
Mr. Mack Abston  
Mrs. Robbie Abel

(to be continued)

My Gift . . .

To Help Fulfill the  
HOPES  
of a Child



Have you sent yours yet?



Mrs. Rebecca Williams from Gautier was elected President of the Board of Trustees for The Baptist Children's Village. The outgoing President, Terry Wills of Eupora, challenged staff and board members at the annual Christmas luncheon to "never give up in this ministry to hurting children." We were reminded that no matter how bleak the situation, or how difficult the times — God has a plan. The annual luncheon followed the quarterly Board of Trustee meeting.



## CHILDREN'S PAGE

## A CHRISTMAS MYSTERY

Can you tell what all the pictures below have in common? (Clue: You might find them all in one book at church!) See if you can identify the message or title of each picture. Write it on the lines under the picture. Solution below.



Source: *Solving Bible Mysteries*, by Joy MacKenzie (Zondervan Publishing House, 1994), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.



he angel said, "Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people.

Today in the town of **David** a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

— Luke 2:10-11



## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1995

BHP RMO BGRMOP XHLORM RMO YHV, GVS  
YMOJORM MEU GXX RMEVDY RMGR MEUYOXB  
SHORM: GVS MO JEXX YMOJ MEU DPOGROP  
JHPAY RMGV RMOYO, RMGR IO UGI UGPLOX.

ZHMV BELO: RJOVRI

This week's clue: V equals N.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Titus One: Two.

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Kayla Hester. I'm 8 years old. My birthday is April 6. I go to Nettleton Primary School and I'm in the third grade. I like dancing, singing, and going to concerts. I have one brother and a horse. Please write to me. I would like it if you would send a picture of yourself, too.

c/o Cason Baptist Church  
30018 Cason Road  
Nettleton, MS 38858

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Cori Walters. I go to Rocky Creek Church. I'm 10 years old and in the fifth grade. My hobbies are coloring, collecting stamps, reading, and playing with my Barbies. Please send me a picture of you.

c/o Rocky Creek Baptist Church  
2165 Rocky Creek Road  
Lucedale, MS 39452

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Brandi Douglas. I am 10 years old and I am in the fifth grade. Please send me a picture of yourself. I would like for boys or girls from anywhere to write me. My hobbies are swimming and roller blading.

My name is Patty Amason. I have two sisters. I am 10 years old and in the fifth grade. I would like girls to write to me.

My name is Bridgett Mansum. I have one brother. I am 10 years old and in the fifth grade. I would like many boys and girls to write to me.

My name is Emily Cody. I have an older sister. I have one cat that just had four kittens. I am 10 years old. I am in the fifth grade. My hobbies are swimming, playing, riding bikes, go to church, babysit, help clean house (sometimes!). I would like for boys or girls to write me.

c/o Children's II  
Sunday School Class  
Main Street Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 536  
Mendenhall, MS 39114

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Erica Douglas. I am 9 years old and in the fourth grade. My birthday is July 26, 1986. I live



out in the country. We have five dogs, one cat, and I have a brother named Phillip. My best friend's name is Holly. I don't care whether you are a girl or a boy. Please write me, and please send a picture if you have one.

c/o First Baptist Church  
P.O. Drawer 749  
Hazlehurst, MS 39083

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi. My name is Rebecca Flick. I am an 11-year-old sixth grader. I love animals and going to church. I have three dogs named Mister, Sis C, and B.J.; five cats named Thomas, Beans, Princess, Kitty, and Harry; three horses named Tie, Chance, and Sandman; and one hamster named Ginger. I attend Trace City Church. I don't mind if I have a boy or girl pen pal. Please write me at:

c/o Trace City Baptist Church  
5 Raintree North  
Natchez, MS 39120

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi. My name is Anna Lammons. I am 10 years old, and I'm in fifth grade. I attend Pleasant Hill Church. I have one sister. I really love church. I like to play the piano, and ride bikes. Please write me if you want to be my pen pal.

c/o Pleasant Hill Baptist Church  
1249 Pleasant Hill Road.  
Columbus, MS 39702

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi. My name is Kristen Burton. I am 11 years old. I enjoy running, karate, and reading. I have five dogs, and four cats. I go to Harrisburg Church. I have one brother and one sister. I would be happy to hear from you.

c/o Burton's Grocery  
119 Hwy. 6 West  
Tupelo, MS 38801

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Dakota Johnson. I am five years old. I am in kindergarten. I live in Saiserslugthern, Germany, with my parents and my two sisters. My dad is in the Army. I enjoy church and Sunday School. I would like to hear from pen pals my age. I attend Rhineland Baptist Church. My pastor's name is Dr. Gibb Wood.

My name is Elizibeth Johnson. I am 9 years old. I am in the fourth grade. I live in Saiserslugthern, Germany. I attend Rhineland Bap-

tist Church. The pastor's name is Dr. Gibb Wood. My mom and dad's family lives in West Point. My dad is in the Army. I would like to hear from boys and girls my age. I enjoy going to church and learning about Jesus. Also I enjoy telling people of Jesus.

My name is Caitlyn Johnson. I am 7 years old. I am in the second grade. I live in Saiserslugthern, Germany, with my parents and my brother and sister. My dad is in the Army. I would like to hear from pan pals my age. I like to go to church and learn about Jesus. I attend Rhineland Baptist Church. The pastor's name is Dr. Gibb Wood. Write us at:

CMR 429, Box 1319  
APO, AE 09054

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Amanda Kilpatrick. I am 10 years old. My birthday is Oct. 25, 1985. I'm in fourth grade and I'm in the gifted program. I enjoy going to church, being with my family and friends. My favorite singers are Faith Hill, Reba McIn-tyre, and Garth Brooks. I have one brother and a dog. You can write me at the address below. Please send a picture of yourself. I don't care if you are a boy or a girl.

c/o Briar Hill Baptist Church  
Hwy. 469  
Florence, MS 39073

